THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS LETTER TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTIE, DATED FROM THE *TOWER*, 4. *May*, 1641.

Anno Domini 1641.

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The Earle of STRAFFORDS Letter, to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, dated from the Tower, the 21 May, 1641.

May it pleaſe your ſacred Majeſty,

IT hath been my greateſt griefe in all theſe troubles, to be taken as a perſon which ſhould endeavour to repreſent and ſet things amiſſe betweene your Majeſtie and your people, and to give Counſells tending to the diſquiet of the three Kingdomes.

Moſt true it is, that this mine own private condition conſidered, it had been a great madneſſe, ſince through your gracious favour I was ſo provided, as not to expect in any kinde to mend my fortune, or pleaſe my mind more, then by reſting where your bounteous hands had placed me.

Nay, it is moſt mightily miſtaken, for unto your Majeſtie it is well known, my poore, and humble adviſes concluded ſtill in this, That your Majeſtie and your people could never be happy, till there were a right underſtanding betwixt you and them: no other means to effect, and ſettle this happineſſe, but by the Councell, and aſſent of the Parliament; or to prevent the growing evills upon this State but by intirely putting your ſelfe in the laſt reſort, upon the loyalty, and good affections of your Engliſh Subjects.

Yet ſuch is my misfortune, this truth findeth little credit, the contrary ſeemeth generally to be beleeved, and my ſelfe reputed, as ſome thing of ſeparation between you, and your people, under a heavier cenſure then which I am perſwaded no Gentleman can ſuffer.

Now, I underſtand the minds of men are more incenſed againſt me, notwithſtanding your Majeſtie hath declared, that in your Princely opinion, I am not guilty of treaſon, nor are you ſatisfied in your conſcience to paſſe the Bill.

This bringeth me into a very great ſtreight, there is before me the ruine of my Children, and Family, hitherto untouched, in all the branches of it with any foule crimes. Here is before me the many ills, which may befall your ſacred Perſon, and the whole Kingdome, ſhould your ſelfe, and Parliament part leſſe

ſatisfied

ſatisfied one with the other, then is neceſſary for the preſervation both of King and people. Here are before me the things moſt valued, moſt feared, by mortall man, *Life*, or *Death*.

To ſay Sir, that there hath not been a ſtrife in me, were to make me leſſe man, than God knoweth, mine infirmities give me. And to call a deſtruction upon my ſelf, and young Children, where the intentions of my heart (at leaſt have been innocent of this great offence) may be believed, will finde no eaſie content from fleſh and blood.

But with much ſadneſſe, I am come to a reſolution, of that which I take to be beſt becoming me, to look upon that which is moſt principall in it ſelf, which doubtleſſe is the proſperity of your ſacred perſon, and the common wealth, infinitely before any private mans intereſt.

And therefore in few words, as I put my ſelf wholly upon the honour, and juſtice of my Peers ſo clearly, as to beſeech your Majeſty might pleaſe to have ſpared that declaration of yours on Saturday laſt, and intirely to have left me to their Lordſhips; ſo now, to ſet your Majeſties conſcience at liberty, I do moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſty, in prevention of miſtakes which may happen, by your refuſall, to paſſe this Bill; And by this means remove (prayſed be God) I cannot ſay, this accurſed (but I confeſſe) this unfortunate thing

forth of the way, towards that blessed agreement, which God I trust, shall ever establish between you and your subjects.

Sir, my consent shall more acquit you herein to God, than all the world can do besides. To a willing man there is no injury done. And as by Gods grace, I forgive all the world with a calmnesse and meeknesse of infinite Contentment to my dislodging soul: So Sir, to you can I give the life of this world, with all the cheerfulnesse imaginable; in the just acknowledgement of your exceeding favours. And onely beg that in your goodnesse, you would vouchsafe to cast your gracious regard upon my poor Son, and his three Sisters, lesse, or more, and no otherwise, than as their (in present) unfortunate Father, may hereafter appear more or lesse guilty of this death.

God long preserve your Majesty.

Your Majesties most faithfull,

and humble Subject,

and Servant,

Tower, 4 *May*, 1641.

STRAFFORD.